

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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JCS - COL. RAWLINGS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO AMEMBASSY SANAA

S E C R E T STATE 064367

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, YE, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI PURCHASE US ARMS FOR YAR

REFS: (A) JIDDA 1573 (B) SANA 650 (C) SANA 282 (D) SANA 472

1. WE HAVE BEEN PLEASED BY APPARENT SAUDI PROGRESS TOWARDS FIRM PROGRAM TO UNDERTAKE MODERNIZATION OF YAR ARMY (REF A) AND WE CONTINUE TO BE PREPARED TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO SPECIFIC REQUESTS FROM SAG FOR US WEAPONS SALES FOR YAR PROGRAM.

2. AT NEXT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY, AMBASSADOR SHOULD RAISE AGAIN WITH SAG QUESTION OF SAUDI READINESS PROCEED WITH ARMS PROGRAM FOR YAR, STRESSING THAT USG AWAITING SAUDI DECISION IN ORDER TO PROCEED. USG PREPARED TO
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COOPERATE IN SUPPORT OF SAUDI DECISION TO EMPHASIZE DEVELOP-

MENT OF YAR LAND FORCES AND HOPES SAUDIS WILL GIVE LATER
CONSIDERATION TO EXTENDING ASSISTANCE TO OTHER AREAS.
YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT IN LIGHT OF RENEWED SABOTAGE
INCIDENTS ALONG PDRY-YAR BORDER (REF B), WE BELIEVE YAR
WOULD FIND IT MOST WELCOME IF SAG COULD INDICATE AN INTEREST
IN MOVING FORWARD WITH PROGRAM AT THIS TIME.

3. FYI: WE REALIZE THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME MIS-

UNDERSTANDING THAT FORWARD MOVEMENT ON YAR MODERNIZATION
PROGRAM WAS DEPENDENT ON RELEASE OF FIFER REPORT. THIS
REPORT NOW PENDING FINAL APPROVAL IN DOD AND ONCE APPROVED
DOD MAY PREPARE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS WHICH WILL OF COURSE
BE CONVEYED TO SAUDIS AND YEMENIS. HOWEVER, REPORT
ITSELF, WHICH CONTAINS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USG ACTION AND
COMMENTS ON YAR AND SA POLITICAL SITUATION, WILL NOT BE
MADE AVAILABLE TO SAG OR YARG. PURPOSE OF US SURVEY TEAM
WAS TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR US VALIDATION FOR ANTICIPATED
SAUDI/YAR SALES REQUESTS AS THEY ARE RECEIVED. BASIC US
COMMITMENT TO SELL ARMS TO YAR ALREADY MADE IN PRIN-
CIPLE AND DEMONSTRATED IN PRACTICE. END FYI. INGERSOLL

SECRET

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